

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

In re Patent Application of:
Michio Endo, et al.

Application No.: Not Yet Assigned
(Div. of S.N. 09/471,181)

Confirmation No.:

Filed: Concurrently Herewith

Art Unit: 1742

For: METHOD AND APPARATUS FOR
MANUFACTURING MINUTES METALIC
SPHERE

Examiner: G. Wyszomierski

INFORMATION DISCLOSURE STATEMENT (IDS)

Commissioner for Patents
P.O. Box 1450
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

Dear Sir:

Pursuant to 37 CFR 1.56, 1.97 and 1.98, the attention of the Patent and Trademark Office is hereby directed to the references listed on the attached PTO/SB/08. It is respectfully requested that the information be expressly considered during the prosecution of this application, and that the references be made of record therein and appear among the "References Cited" on any patent to issue therefrom.

This Information Disclosure Statement accompanies the new patent application submitted herewith.

Those patent(s) or publication(s) which are marked with an asterisk (*) next to the Cite No. in the attached form PTO/SB/08 (facsimile) are not supplied because they were previously cited by or submitted to the Office in a prior application number 09/471,181, filed December 23, 1999 and relied upon in this application for an earlier filing date under 35 U.S.C. 120.

The relevance of Japan 11-264004 can be found in the English language abstract and that of 4-74801 on pages 1 and 2 of the specification.

The Director is hereby authorized to charge any deficiency in the fees filed, asserted to be filed or which should have been filed herewith (or with any paper hereafter filed in this application by this firm) to our Deposit Account No. 22-0185, under Order No. 21776-00046-US1. A duplicate copy of this paper is enclosed.

Dated: 8-7-03

Respectfully submitted,

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Substitute for form 1449A/B/PTO INFORMATION DISCLOSURE STATEMENT BY APPLICANT <i>(Use as many sheets as necessary)</i>				Complete if Known	
				Application Number	TBA (Div of 09/471,181)
				Filing Date	Concurrently Herewith
				First Named Inventor	Michio Endo et al.
				Art Unit	1742
				Examiner Name	G. Wyszomierski
				Attorney Docket Number	21776-00046-US1
Sheet	1	of	1		

U.S. PATENT DOCUMENTS					
Examiner Initials*	Cite No. ¹	Document Number	Publication Date MM-DD-YYYY	Name of Patentee or Applicant of Cited Document	Pages, Columns, Lines, Where Relevant Passages or Relevant Figures Appear
		Number-Kind Code ² (if known)			
	*	3,663,206	05/1972	Lubanska	
	*	5,346,530	09/1994	Miller et al.	
	*	5,653,783	08/1997	Ohzeki	
	*	5,713,981	02/1998	Amick	
	*	5,891,212	04/1999	Tang et al.	
	*	6,290,745	09/2001	Schulze et al.	
	*	6,432,330	08/2002	Hanabe et al.	

FOREIGN PATENT DOCUMENTS						
Examiner Initials*	Cite No. ¹	Foreign Patent Document	Publication Date MM-DD-YYYY	Country	Pages, Columns, Lines, Where Relevant Passages or Relevant Figures Appear	T ⁶
		Country Code ³ -Number ⁴ -Kind Code ⁵ (if known)				
		325798	08/1989	Europe		
		11-264004	09/1999	Japan		
		4-74801	03/1992	Japan		

*EXAMINER: Initial if reference considered, whether or not citation is in conformance with MPEP 609. Draw line through citation if not in conformance and not considered. Include copy of this form with next communication to applicant. ¹ Applicant's unique citation designation number (optional). ² See Kinds Codes of USPTO Patent Documents at www.uspto.gov or MPEP 901.04. ³ Enter Office that issued the document, by the two-letter code (WIPO Standard ST.3). ⁴ For Japanese patent documents, the indication of the year of the reign of the Emperor must precede the serial number of the patent document. ⁵ Kind of document by the appropriate symbols as indicated on the document under WIPO Standard ST. 16 if possible. ⁶ Applicant is to place a check mark here if English language Translation is attached.

NON PATENT LITERATURE DOCUMENTS					
Examiner Initials*	Cite No. ¹	Include name of the author (in CAPITAL LETTERS), title of the article (when appropriate), title of the item (book, magazine, journal, serial, symposium, catalog, etc.), date, page(s), volume-issue number(s), publisher, city and/or country where published.			T ²

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¹ Applicant's unique citation designation number (optional). ² Applicant is to place a check mark here if English language Translation is attached.

Examiner Signature		Date Considered	
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